

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
GENESIS 2

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Introduction, The Creation Account

Not contradiction but further explication and illumination

Same sermon can have same essential message and structure, but different points of explication, explanation, illumination and revelation

Creation, revelation, illumination, teaching represent ongoing work of God

Focus on humanity (purpose, constraints and structure of relationships)

Verses 1-3, Thus the heavens and the earth were finished...[God] rested...

Technically God does not need rest

Rest involves a period of time. Thus God not only moves in realm of eternity beyond time. God works through time, in time, with time and on time for sake of finite and time bound eternity.

God's respect for time and the process of rejuvenation establishes pattern for created life, which all other life forms respect with the exception of humans

Sabbath is sacred not simply because of worship but the necessity of rest and rejuvenation for maintenance of life.

Verses 4-14, In the day that the Lord made the heavens and when no plant of the field...

God put in systems in the earth for its own maintenance from the beginning.

The problems we are having with the environment stem from our lack of respect for the natural order. Disrespect in one area leads to disrespect and corruption in another area. What began as disrespect with environment has spread to disrespect of the natural order in the animal kingdom as well as human relationships.

Human beings are made from dust not dirt. Dust is the residue or scraps from dirt.

The crowning glory of the creation consists of leftovers. Another aspect of the divine vision and power

God planted a garden not a city because God wanted to establish the symbiotic relationship between humans and the environment. God planted a garden; humans build cities, which are more territorial. At the center of the garden are trees of life and good and evil. Choice is always as the center of our lives

Verses 15-17, The Lord God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden...

God gave man responsibility, prohibition and commandment even in Paradise.

Even in an ideal setting, we must respect divine order

The opportunities are greater than the prohibitions.

Verses 18-23, Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone..."

Creation of woman was intended as mate in procreation and partnership in fulfilling human destiny. Nothing is said about domination or inferiority

Divine order consists of man to woman, in partnership and procreation (Gen. 1: 28)

Verses 24-25, Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife...

The wife becomes man's first priority

The wife is always a woman in scripture and husband is always a man

Types of biblical marriages

Nuclear, man+woman (Genesis 2: 24)

Man+wives+concubines

Man+wife+property (Genesis 16)

Man+ several wives (Polygamy)

Rapist and his victim (Deuteronomy 22: 28-29)

Male soldier+prisoner of war (Number 31: 1-18; Deuteronomy 21: 11-14)

Male slave+female slave (Exodus 21: 4)

Biblical references to marriage in scripture

Genesis 1: 27-28

Genesis 2: 21-25

Deuteronomy 24: 5

Proverbs 5: 18-19

Proverbs 12: 4

Proverbs 18: 22

Proverbs 19: 14

Proverbs 20: 6-7

Proverbs 20: 18-19

Ephesians 5: 22-33

Malachi 2: 14-15

Matthew 19: 4-6

Mark 10: 6-9

I Corinthians 7: 1-16

Colossians 3: 18-19

Hebrews 13: 4-7

Abuse and betrayals are not acceptable reasons for changing divine order

Personal preference is not acceptable for changing the divine order

Legal and civil rights are not acceptable for changing the divine order

Transgression of the divine order and disobedience to the explicit word of God is not a phobia; it is sin. It is not unforgiveable sin; but it is still sin.

While Jesus still saves to the utmost and all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of

God, the church as a community of faith which is guided by the word of God still has a right to set standards of acceptable behavior and exercise discipline within the body of believers.

Since the church is guided by moral law, it has a right to speak out and oppose civil laws that transgress moral law.